The Football Association of Wales

Wales v Australia

The Vauxhall International Friendly

Cardiff City Stadium
Wednesday 10th August 2011
Kick Off: 7.45pm

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WALES V AUSTRALIA

International Friendly • Cardiff City Stadium • Wednesday 10th August 2011 • Kick Off: 7.45pm

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PHIL PRITCHARD

FAW President

Welcome

Good evening to everyone who has joined us for this Vvauxhall Friendly International with Australia.

I am delighted to welcome our friends from the other side of the globe, though I realise that many of the Australian players are plying their trade in Europe – and indeed – many in England.

This is the start of a very important season for us. The remaining four European Championship matches this autumn must be approached with the importance that they deserve. I know that our manager, Gary Speed, will be keen to register some points on the board and to keep the momentum going through the rest of the season's friendly matches before we start next season's FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

I was fortunate to be in Rio, Brazil, with Gary and chief executive Jonathan Ford for the draw a week or so ago. The event was as exciting as always and it was good to see some friends there – all waiting to see if fate would be kind to them.

My thanks to Cardiff City for allowing us to stage this evening's match and we look forward to a quick return next month for the Euro 2012 match with Montenegro on Friday 2nd September.

To you, our fans, enjoy the game and have a safe journey home.

Phil Pritchard
Faw President

Croeso

Noswaith dda i bawb sydd wedi ymuno â ni ar gyfer gêm Ryngwladol Gyfeillgar Vauxhall yn erbyn Awstralia.

Mae'n bleser gennyf groesawu ein cyfeillion o ben draw'r byd, er fy mod i'n ymwybodol bod llawer o chwaraewyr Awstralia yn ennill eu bywoliaeth yn Ewrop - ac yn wir - llawer ohonynt yn Lloegr.

Mae'r gêm hon yn nodi dechrau tymor pwysig iawn i ni. Mae'r pedair gêm sy'n weddill ym Mhencampwriaeth Ewrop yr hydref hwn yn hollbwysig i Gymru. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd ein rheolwr, Gary Speed, yn awyddus i gofrestru ychydig o bwyntiau ac i gynnal y momentwm drwy gydol gweddill gemau cyfeillgar y tymor cyn i ni ddechrau ar ymgyrch Cwpan y Byd FIFA y tymor nesaf.

Roeddwn i'n ddigon ffodus i fod yn Rio, Brasil, gyda Gary a'n prif weithredwr, Jonathan Ford, pan dynnwyd yr enwau allan o'r het ar gyfer Cwpan y Byd 2014 oddeutu wythnos yn ôl. Roedd y digwyddiad yr un mor gyffrous ag arfer ac roedd hi'n wych gweld ychydig o'n ffrindiau yno, pob un yn disgwyl i weld a fyddai ffawd yn eu ffafrio.

Diolch yn fawr i Ddinas Caerdydd am ganiatáu i ni gynnal y gêm yma, ac rydym yn edrych ymlaen at ddychwelyd eto'r mis nesaf ar gyfer y gêm ragbrofol yn erbyn Montenegro, a hynny ar ddydd Gwener 2 Medi.

Ac yn olaf, i chi, ein cefnogwyr, mwynhewch y gêm a dyma ddymuno siwrne saff i chi yn ôl.

Phil Pritchard
Llywydd CC-DC

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JONATHAN FORD

FAW Chief Executive

Welcome

Good evening to all the supporters and a very warm welcome to the Cardiff City Stadium to this fixture against Australia. This is a first for the Association and for the Welsh supporters who are used to watching rugby internationals between the respective countries. For the first time ever, we play the Australians at football. As we all know, Australia has enjoyed tremendous success on many sporting fields including participation in the FIFA Football World Cup.

Last week, along with the team manager Gary Speed and the President Phil Pritchard, I was fortunate enough to be present at the World Cup draw for Brazil 2014. It is an interesting group to the say the least, but we do feel that despite the our lowly FIFA ranking we can certainly make an impact in this group.

Off the field it has been a very busy summer and I would like to thank all of you for visiting the FAW at the big events, the Urdd Eisteddfod in Swansea, the Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells and the National Eisteddfod at Wrexham. It was a great opportunity for us at the FAW to meet our supporters and listen to their views on a variety of subjects.

The support we received in the last game against England was magnificent and we hope for your continued support between now and the end of this qualifying campaign as we look to finish on a high. Once again, thank you for your support this evening and have a safe journey home.

Jonathan Ford
Chief Executive

Croeso

Noswaith dda i'r holl gefnogwyr a chroeso cynnes iawn i Stadiwm Dinas Caerdydd ar gyfer y gêm hon yn erbyn Awstralia. Er bod cefnogwyr Cymru wedi hen arfer gwylio'r ddwy wlad yn herio'i gilydd mewn gemau rygbi rhyngwladol, dyma'r tro cyntaf erioed iddynt gwrdd i chwarae pêl-droed. Fel y gwyddoch, mae Awstralia wedi mwynhau llwyddiant ysgubol ar nifer o feysydd chwarae gan gynnwys cymryd rhan yng Nghwpan y Byd FIFA.

Yr wythnos ddiwethaf, ynghyd â rheolwr y tîm, Gary Speed, a'r Llywydd Phil Pritchard, roeddwn i'n ddigon ffodus i fod yn bresennol pan dynnwyd yr enwau allan o'r het ar gyfer Cwpan y Byd 2014 sydd i'w gynnal ym Mrasil. Mae grŵp Cymru yn un diddorol i ddweud y lleiaf, ond rydym ni'n teimlo, er gwaethaf ein safle isel ar restr FIFA, bod modd i ni wneud argraff yn y grŵp hwn.

Oddi ar y cae, mae hi wedi bod yn haf prysur iawn a hoffwn ddiolch i bawb a ddaeth i ymweld â'r Gymdeithas yn y digwyddiadau mawr, sef Eisteddfod yr Urdd yn Abertawe, y Sioe Frenhinol yn Llanelwedd a'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn Wrecsam. Roedd yn gyfle gwych i ni yn y Gymdeithas gwrdd â'n cefnogwyr ac i wrando ar eu sylwadau ar amrywiaeth o bynciau.

Roedd y gefnogaeth a gawsom yn y gêm ddiwethaf yn erbyn Lloegr yn wych ac rydym yn gobeithio y byddwch yn parhau i gefnogi'r tîm rhwng nawr a diwedd yr ymgyrch ragbrofol hon. Unwaith eto, diolch i chi am eich cefnogaeth a dyma ddymuno siwrne ddiogel i chi ar eich taith yn ôl.

Jonathan Ford
Prif Weithredwr

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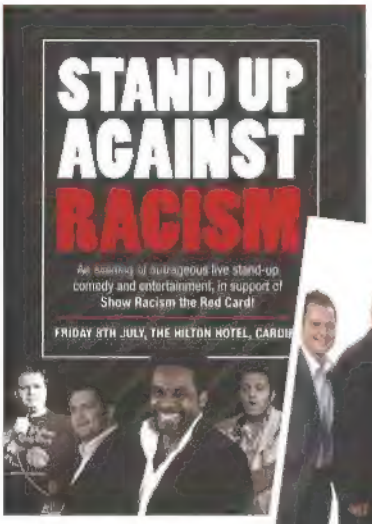


FAW SUPPORTS 'SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD'

The FAW has shown long-standing support to the 'Show Racism The Red Card Campaign'. Recently, a comedy event was held in Cardiff at the Hilton Hotel to help raise awarness and funds for the cause - 'Stand Up Against Racism'.

The FAW took a table at the event, as well as donating some auction prizes. A great evening was had by all and it all went to help facilitate the work of a great organisation. Pictured are the FAW staff who attended, plus the event poster.

UEFA WOMEN'S U19 WALES 2013

The FAW is delighted to have been granted the finals tournament for the UEFA Women's Under 19 championships in August 2013. This will be the first time that the FAW has been given such a finals to stage. Seven teams, plus Wales, will come to South Wales in August 2013 for the finals. The teams will be based in Swansea, with matches in Swansea, Llanelli, Carmarthen and Bridgend. The final will be at the Liberty Stadium. Watch out for more news at our website: www.FAW.org.uk

MEL HOPKINS

The FAW was saddened to hear of the passing of one of its former internationals – Tottenham Hotspur full-back, Mel Hopkins, who starred in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden.

Mel, who hailed from the Rhondda, won 34 caps between 1956 to 1963 and was a part of the great Spurs 'Double' winning team of the early 60's. A keen golfer in his later years, the FAW was glad to help support the fund to place a bench at the first tee of his local golf club, Waterhall, in memory of a great man.

MEL HOPKINS MEMORIAL BENCH

I am pleased to confirm that the Memorial Bench has been installed at the First Tee on Waterhall Golf Course.

A total of £959 was raised, £407 from the 'Silent Auction' of the Spurs and Wales Shirts and £552 from individual donations.

The cost of the Bench was £505 and that of the concrete base and fixing was £300.

St Barnabas Hospice received the balance of £154.

Many thanks to those who supported this project. We can all look forward to the comfort of waiting to tee off seated on 'Mel's Bench' and enjoying the views of the South Downs.

Dennis Freedman

7 July 2011

Welsh Australian Rules Football League
Cynghrair Pel droed Awstralaidd Cymru

For more information & expressions of interest, please contact your nearest club:

Bridgend EAGLES
Bridgend & surrounding area
Training at Heol-y-Cyw RFC
Contact: Leigh McAndrew
on 07595 729973
bridgend.eagles@warfl.org.uk

Glamorgan BULLDOGS
Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil & RCT
Training in Caerphilly (venue TBC)
Contact: Nick Baker on 07887 524661
glamorgan.bulldogs@warfl.org.uk

Cardiff DOUBLE BLUES
Cardiff & surrounding area
Training at Llandaff Fields
Contact: Ben Coak on 07974 634918
double.blues@warfl.org.uk

Gwent TIGERS
Newport & surrounding area
Training in Tredegar Park
Contact: Nick Baker on 07887 524661
gwent.tigers@warfl.org.uk

South Cardiff PANTHERS
Cardiff & surrounding area
Training in Roath Park
Contact: David Saunders
on 07786 634047
southcardiff.panthers@warfl.org.uk

Swansea MAGPIES
Swansea & surrounding area
Training at Swansea University
Contact: Alad Morris
on 07733 933868
swansea.magpies@warfl.org.uk

Vale WARRIORS
Barry & surrounding area
Training at Barry RFC
Contact: Nick Baker on 07887 524661
vale.warriors@warfl.org.uk

Australian Rules Football or 'Aussie Rules' has been played in Wales since 2007. The Welsh Australian Rules Football League (WARFL) is a '9-a-side' league (9 players on field with 5 rolling substitutes), played on rugby pitches which turned into ovals. The League runs through the summer (roughly May-August) followed by end of season International matches. You don't need to have experience to participate as coaching is provided at every club in a fun atmosphere. All you need are your boots and a desire to get stuck in!

The league consists of the following clubs: Bridgend Eagles, Cardiff Double Blues, South Cardiff Panthers, Gwent Tigers, Swansea Magpies and Vale Warriors. The Cymru Red Dragons are our Welsh National team who play regular international matches against the home nations. Friendly games and tournaments take place throughout Britain and Europe, many WARFL players have gone on to play at international level. The very best players have the opportunity to represent Great Britain at the International Cup in Australia.

Join us to keep fit and in shape during the summer by playing a sport which combines the flow of football, the contact of rugby and the intensity of basketball.

On behalf of the Welsh Australian Rules Football League (WARFL) I would like to thank the F.A.W. for inviting us to be here tonight. The WARFL is only 4 years old but is growing from strength to strength ever year. Our goal is to deliver one of the fastest, athletic, exciting and enjoyable games in the world. We hope to give the Socceroos a little reminder of home while they are here and we also hope to spark your interest in this growing Welsh sport. So whilst I hope you really enjoy tonight's game of football, I also hope you come away tonight with your mind opened up to the world of the other "footy".

Dewch ar Gymru!

James Gibson, WARFL President.

Aussie Rules At-a-Glance

- The objective of Aussie Rules is to score points by kicking the ball through the opponent's goal. Kicking the ball between the two major goal posts scores 6 points, and kicking it between the major post and the minor posts scores 1 point. The team with the higher total score at the end of the match wins.
- The ball is passed by way of a kick or handball.
- If the ball is kicked through the air for more than [10m without bouncing] and caught cleanly, it is claimed as a mark and that player is then awarded a free kick.
- When tackled, a player must dispose of the ball cleanly or risk being penalised for holding the ball.
- When running with the ball, it must be bounced or touched on the ground every 10m.
- 4 x 20 minute quarters.
- No off-sides.

GARY SPEED

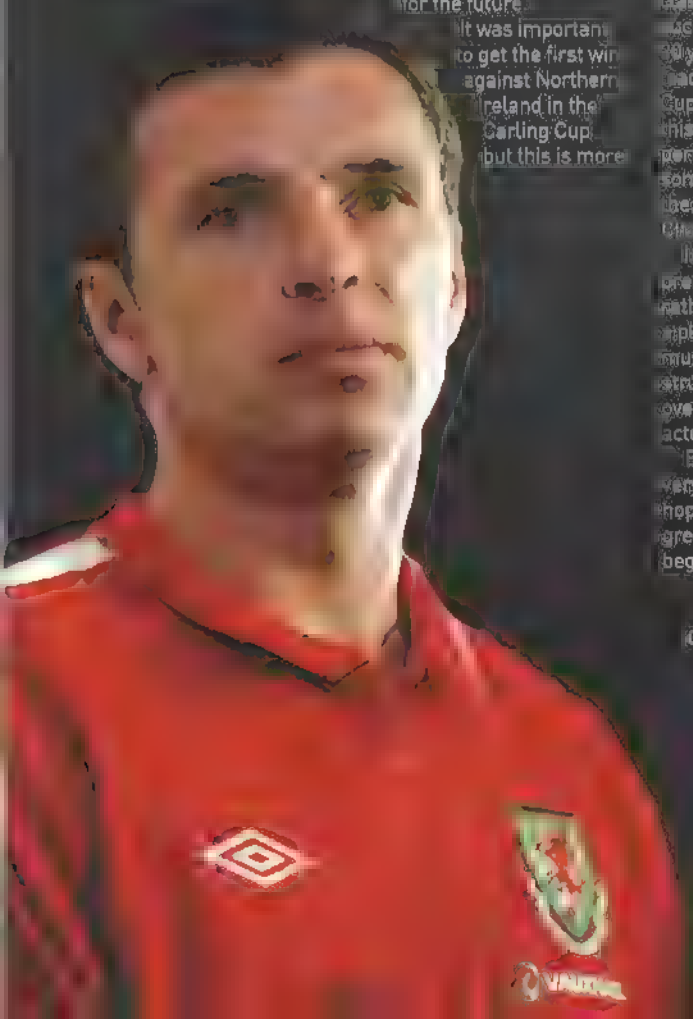
Manager

S[illegible] know [illegible] a tremendous [illegible] Cup Finals in Brazil.

[illegible] campaign and we now know who our opponents will be. There are some [illegible] matches and we find ourselves in the same group as Croatia, Serbia and Belgium. We have our own local derbies of course with two games against Scotland and they promise to be exciting and fantastic occasions. Macedonia for all of us connected with [illegible] international football will be a new experience.

Despite the fact that we are still involved in this qualifying campaign for the European Championships, we can now start preparing for the World Cup Qualifiers. Our aim of course is to finish the group strongly and positively and put a solid foundation in place for the future.

It was important to get the first win against Northern Ireland in the Carling Cup but this is more



"...we have a tremendous opportunity of reaching 2014 World Cup Finals"

[illegible] happy with [illegible] and [illegible] experience told in the second half.

As part of our preparation for the [illegible] qualifying games we have a [illegible] we have faced the Australian national team at this level. Over the years the Australians have produced some [illegible] class sports men and women and they have had particular success at cricket and both rugby codes. In the last 20 [illegible] years, the Australian football side has developed [illegible] leading international team capable of qualifying for World Cup Finals and they will certainly provide us with a test this evening. It will be interesting to see how the players perform and their various fitness levels. Let's not forget some of the players have yet to play a competitive game in the Premier League whilst others have just kicked off in the Championship.

I am sure you are aware much has been made in the press and media about our FIFA ranking. Obviously I would rather be in the world's top 50 but I can remember as a player under the likes of Mark Hughes we never took much notice of the rankings when we were doing well or struggling. If my memory serves me right after a 3-0 win over Scotland in this stadium under John Toshack we actually dropped four places!

Back to tonight, thank you for your support again. It is very much appreciatedby myself and the players. We are hoping that we can reward you with a win that would be a great boost before we will be back here in the stadium at the beginning of September.

Gary

ON FAMILIAR GROUND

New era, new lease of life, that's the way Wales striker Robert Earnshaw is looking at his international career under national boss Gary Speed and his return to home club Cardiff City.

Under former manager John Toshack the former Nottingham Forest striker was a bit-part player and on the bench more times than a judge, but times have changed and the 30-year old, who returned to South Wales last month to be a Bluebird striker again, is looking forward to joining up with the Welsh camp – which has not always been the case.

In 25 international appearances under Toshack, he tasted the full 90 minutes only five times and for the majority of his other 20 appearances he would be taken off at half time or appear as a late substitute. Toshack even declared at one point that the striker was "going backwards".

"I definitely was not given a fair crack of the whip under the previous manager," said Earnshaw. "Look at the games, look at the kind of minutes I had on the pitch. It was almost impossible for me – the thing is, if you are given time on the pitch, certain players will do well and I am one of those."

Wales rounded off their Carling Nations Cup campaign in Dublin with a 2-0 win over Northern Ireland, with Earnshaw coming off the bench to score after skipper Aaron Ramsey had put his side ahead. Two days earlier Earnshaw had opened the scoring against Scotland on a night which saw Wales eventually lose 3-1, but he had that smile back on his face and feels very much part of the Speed picture now.

His two goals moved him on to 16 in 54 international appearances, one more than Wales legend John Charles. He is now level in Wales' goal-scoring charts with Mark Hughes and Cliff Jones.

Earnshaw, who often played alongside Speed for Wales when the former Newcastle United midfielder was skipper, said: "Gary has given everyone a new lease of life since he came in. He just lets you go out there and play your game," he said.

"I've got a couple of goals, so I think everyone can see how much I'm enjoying it. What I'm doing now is what I've always been capable of doing. Sometimes I haven't been able to show that, because of things that have been out of my hands. I'm just so glad to be playing games for Wales again now – things have been superb for me recently.

"Since the new manager has taken over it has personally given me a big lift because of what he is setting out to do. He wants his team to do well and that is the big thing.

INTERVIEW ROBERT EARNSHAW

Watched by Adam ... prepares to shoot

"It has an effect on all the players and it gives them direction. He's trying to give us the direction we should go over the next four or five years and the direction he is trying to give us is the right direction. Everybody is warming to it."

Wales now need to round off what has proved another fruitless qualifying campaign for Euro 2012 before embarking on what will hopefully be the road to the World Cup in Brazil in 2014. Speed is keen to make an impression in September's double header with Montenegro on Friday 2nd at the Cardiff City Stadium and four days later against England at Wembley.

And with much made of Wales dropping to 112th in the FIFA rankings lately behind the Faroe Islands, Earnshaw smiled: "I don't think anybody understands how the rankings work anyway, nobody really takes any notice of them. It just makes the press for a couple of days and it's forgotten about.

"We know that under Gary we will get it right and once we start moving up those rankings nobody will make anything of it – I know the players don't give it a second thought."

On the domestic front the Zambia-born Earnshaw, who scored over 100 goals for the Bluebirds in his first spell at Cardiff, is champing at the bit.

"The fans have such passion, they will drive us on and let the players know what it's all about. My affinity with this football club and the area played a big part in my coming back.

"When I scored the winner against Cardiff for Nottingham Forest at the City Ground, everybody I spoke to was telling me I was the only player they would be happy to see score against their team. That was amazing.

"If you are loved by people at a club that's a big part. I need to be wanted. I need to be liked. That will spur me on to do even better."

"I've got a couple of goals, so I think everyone can see how much I'm enjoying it"

By Mark Bloom

AARON

MATCH REVIEW

The much-awaited clash at the Millennium Stadium saw the visitors take the points with a clinical performance. A full-house of fans, many hoping for an upset, were sent home disappointed as England won with plenty to spare.

The game was won – and lost in the opening fourteen minutes – as England scored twice. The first goal came from a Frank Lampard penalty after just seven minutes when Wales defender James Collins fouled his Aston Villa team-mate Ashley Young. Darren Bent soon added a second to effectively seal the game. Wales had lost Gareth Bale to injury a few days before the match and his absence was crucial. Craig Bellamy toiled long and hard for the cause but was well shackled by an experienced England defence.

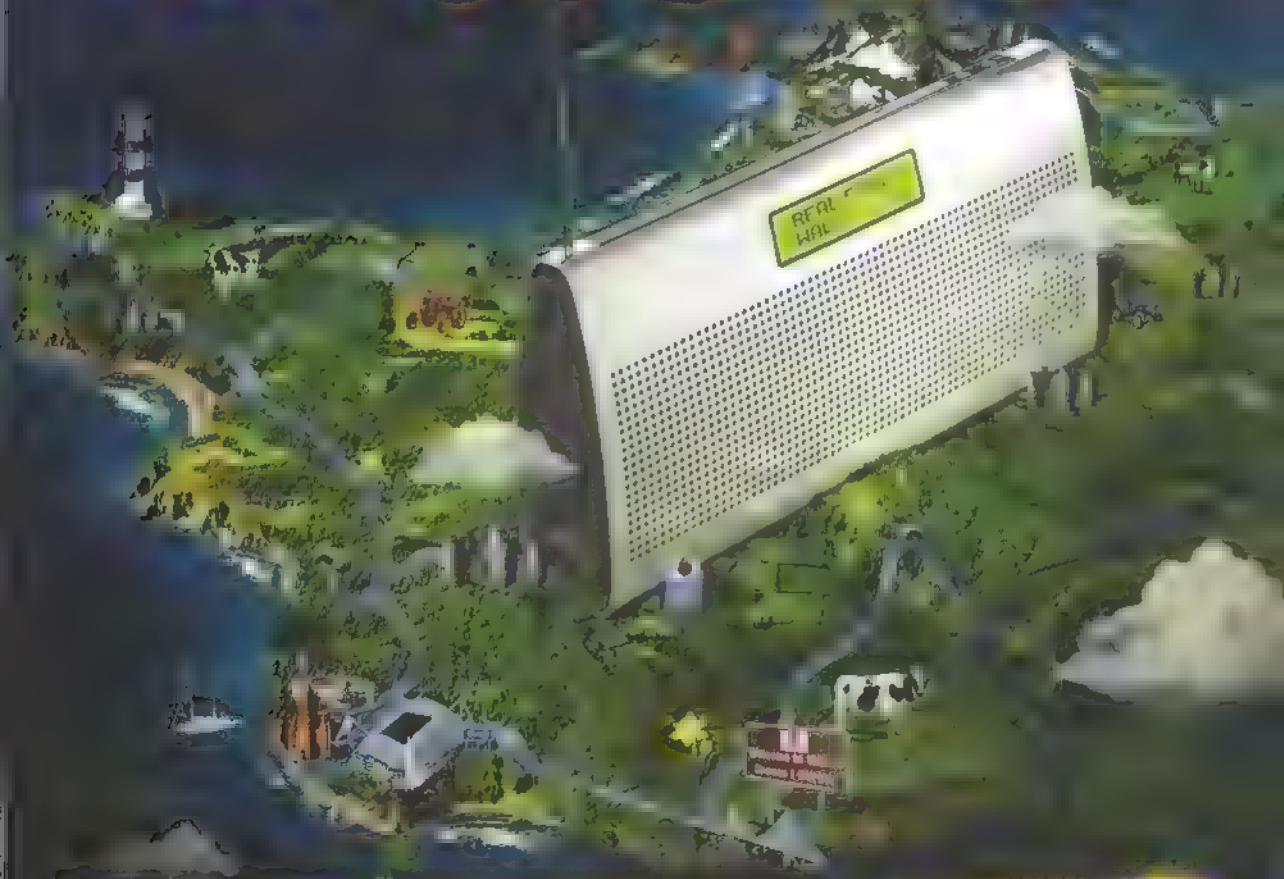
Wales worked hard to get back into the contest in the second half and made it hard for England to extend their lead. The men in red looked comfortable in possession but were still unable to cause any major problems for England's defence. The visitors had succeeded in silencing the crowd and looked content to run-down the clock. For Wales, the introduction of David Vaughan helped to give the midfield some more invention, but the damage had already been done.

In fairness to Wales manager Gary Speed, his team never stopped running throughout the 90 minutes and their commitment could not be faulted.

Wayne Hennessey, Chris Gunter, Danny Collins, Andrew Crofts, James Collins, Ashley Williams, Joe Ledley, Craig Bellamy, Steve Morison (Sub:Ched Evans 65m), Aaron Ramsey, Andy King (Sub:David Vaughan 65m). Subs not used: Boaz Myhill, Neal Eradley, Danny Gabbidon, Joe Allen, Simon Church.

Craig Bellamy skips away from Michael Dawson. Above right: Aaron Ramsey battles it out with Glen Johnson.

Now covering the whole of Wales.



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SYD THOMAS

Former Wales internationa., Syd Thomas, has recently had a book written and published on his career. Syd, who hails from Machynlleth, is the only player from the town to win senior honours - four caps between 1947 to 1948 whilst playing for Fulham. A winger, Syd lost many years of his career to the Second World War and after transferring to Bristol City was unlucky enough to contract T.B. This forced him out of the full-time game and he returned to Machynlleth to work in the family bakery business. Now aged 91, Syd is still interested in football and proud of his achievements.

ON THE ROAD WITH THE FAW

Cup trophy, W
g
launch for the
n W

GORAU CHWARAE, CHWARAE GARTREF

Dwight Yorke

Er gwaetha' eu beirniaid mae uwch-gynghrair Cymru wedi hen ennill ei phlwy', gyda'r gynghrair genedlaethol yn dathlu ei phen-blwydd yn ugain oed y tymor hwn. Bydd nifer yn cofio'r cecru a fu ynglŷn â'i sefydlu ar ddechrau 90au, gydag ymdrechion yr wyth clwb gwallgo fel y'i gelwid ['the irate eight'] i gadw eu lle o fewn y pyramid Seisnig, a'r achosion llys costus a niweidiol a ddilynodd

Fanc o' gymharu yw cynghrair genedlaethol cyfredol Awstralia Sefydlwyd yr A-League, a noddir gan gwmni ceir Hyundai, yn 2005 Ond nid dyma'r tro cynta' i'r wlad gael cystadleuaeth o'r fath Roedd yr NSL [National Soccer League], rhagflaenydd yr A-League, yn bodoli o 1977 hyd at 2004

Soccer' a elwir y gêm yng ngwlad y cangarŵ Camp arall yw pêl-droed, neu 'footy' yno, sef pêl-droed rheolau Awstralaidd - gêm sy'n ymdebygu i'r fersiwn Gaeleg a chwaraeir yr ochr draw i Fôr Iwerddon

Gêm y mewnfudwyr neu'r bobl ethnig fel y'i hadnabyddir, yw pêl-droed yn Awstralia gyda'r bobl gynhenid yn ffafrio footy'. Ym mhrifddinas talaith De Awstralia, er enghraifft, roedd dau brif glwb pêl-droed – West Adelaide yn perthyn i'r rhai o dras Groegaidd a'r llall, Adelaide City, yn 'eiddo' i'r Eidalwyr

Yn ôl gweinyddwyr y bêl-gron yn Awstralia doedd y drefn yma – oedd yn caethiwo hanes adrodd cenedl y wlad - ddim yn iach Roedd sefyllfa bêl-droed yn caethiwo ei chefnogwyr i gyd grŵp ethnig penodol yn llesteirio twf a datblygiad y gêm - a hyn mewn gwlad sy'n gosod blaenoriaeth uchel ar chwaraeon o bob math

Ond pan ddaeth yr A-League i rym crewyd clwb hollol newydd - Adelaide City yn Ne Awstralia. Cyfle, yn ôl corff rheoli'r gêm yn y wlad, i bob copa gwallt o gwaetog - waeth beth fo ei dras ethnig – i gefnogi un tîm Ac mae'r drefn newydd wedi talu ar ei ganfed, gyda'r tîm yn cynrychioli'r dalaith gyfan ac yn denu cefnogwyr o bob cwr

Ac yn sicr fe gafodd y gystadleuaeth ar ei newydd wedd groeso brwd gan y cefnogwyr. Saethodd y torfeydd fyny i 11,627 ar gyfartaledd yn euphoria'r tymor agoriadol, o'i gymharu â chyfartaledd o 4, 119 yn nhymor olaf yr NSL

10 clwb - gan gynnwys un o Seland Newydd – sy'n cystadlu yn yr A-League Brisbane Roar yw'r pencampwyr presennol ac yn sgîl eu llwyddiant bydd y clwb o Queensland yn cynrychioli Awstralia yng nghwpan Asia, cystadleuaeth sy'n cyfateb i gynghrair y pencampwyr yma yn Ewrop. Ac yna mae enillwyr Cwpan Asia yn wynebu goreuon y cyfandiroedd eraill ym Mhencampwriaeth Clybiau'r Byd.

Nid oes modd ar hyn o bryd i glybiau o'r cynghreiriau taleithiol ennill dyrchafiad i'r A-League System drwyddedu sydd ar waith, tebyg i'r un o fewn rygbi tri ar ddeg yma yng ngwledydd Prydain. Yn ogystal, gosodir uchafswm ar gyflogau - hyn i geisio sicrhau cystadleuaeth deg ymysg y clybiau, a bod un neu ddau ddim yn dominyddu'r gynghrair. Ac mae'n ymddangos bod hyn wedi talu ar ei ganfed. Mae cymaint â phedwar clwb wedi cipio'r teitl yn y chwe thymor ers sefydlu'r A-League - Sydney FC a Melbourne Victory (ill dau dwywaith), gyda Newcastle Jets a'r pencampwyr eleni Brisbane Roar yr unig enillwyr eraill

Ond er bod carfan yr ymwelwyr heno yn ennill eu bara menyn yn bell o'u mamwlad mae nifer o sêr rhyngwladol yn troedio ar gaeau'r A-League yn flynyddol. Caniateir chwaraewyr 'marquee', rhai na chyfyngir eu cyflog o fewn yr uchafswm. Ymysg y rhain yn y gorffennol mae cyn-flaenwr Lloegr a Lerpwl, Robbie Fowler a chyn seren Manchester United, Dwight Yorke A'r tymor nesa' bydd Liam Miller, gynt gyda Celtic, yn gwisgo crys y tîm o'r gorllewin, Perth Glory Mae presenoldeb chwaraewyr o'r fath yn cynnal y diddordeb, ac yn denu'r torfeydd Mae rhwystrau serch hynny ar feithrin talentau lleol gan nad oes hawl gan unrhyw glwb i gofrestru mwy na pum chwaraewr o du hwnt i Awstralia

Mae Ffederasiwn Pêl-droed Awstralia wrthi'n ddyfal yn cyflwyno syniadau hybu'r cynghrair cenedlaethol yno. Ac mae'n bosib bod gan weinyddwyr uwch gynghrair Cymru wers neu ddwy i'w dysgu ganddynt Ond fe erys un ffactor sy'n gyffredin i'r ddwy wlad a fyddai'n gwneud byd o wahaniaeth i'r gêm gartref A hynny yw llwyddiant i'r tîm cenedlaethol. Hon yw unig gêm y Socceroos cyn gemau rhagbrofol Cwpan y Byd 2014 fis nesa A buan iawn fydd gemau cyfatebol Cymru ar ein gwarthau. Dyna i chi grynhoi pwysigrwydd gêm heno, i'r ddwy wlad!

Gan: David James.

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Wales v Montenegro

Euro 2012 Qualifying Match
Friday 2nd September 2011
Cardiff City Stadium
7.45pm Kick Off

Price – £65.00 for adults and £15.00 children
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Wales v Switzerland

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7.45pm Kick Off

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WALES

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VAUXHALL

WAYNE HENNESSEY

(Wolverhampton Wanderers)
International No: 660
Date of Birth: 24 01 87
Born: Bangor, North West Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace

Height: 1.95m
Other Clubs:
Bristol City (Loan),
Stockport County (Loan)
A Caps: 32
1st Cap: New Zealand 2006-07
Age at 1st Cap.
20 years 122 days
Under 21 Caps: 6
Under 19 Caps: 7
Under 17 Caps: 6 / 1 goal

BOAZ MYHILL

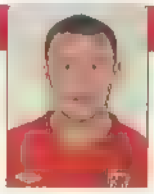
(West Bromwich Albion)
International No: 667
Date of Birth: 09 11 82
Born: Modesto, USA.
Eligibility: Welsh Mother
Height: 1.91m

Other Clubs: Aston Villa,
Stoke City (Loan)
Bristol City (Loan),
Bradford City (Loan),
Macclesfield Town (Loan)
Stockport County (Loan),
Hull City
A Caps: 10
1st Cap: Luxembourg 2007-08
Age at 1st Cap:
25 years 137 days
Under 20 Caps: (England)

CRAIG PRICE

(Crystal Palace)
International No: 649
Date of Birth: 19.07 84
Born: Bournemouth, England
Eligibility: Welsh Father
Height: 1.91m

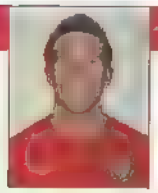
Other Clubs: Ipswich Town,
Cambridge United (Loan),
MK Dons (Loan)
Brentford (Loan)
A Caps: 8
1st Cap: Cyprus 2005-06
Age at 1st Cap:
21 years 120 days
Under 21 Caps: 10
Under 19 Caps: 3



DARCY BLAKE

(Cardiff City)
International No: 682
Date of Birth: 13 12 88
Born: New Tredegar South Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.65m

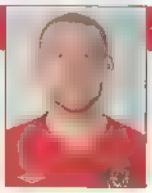
Other Clubs:
Plymouth Argyle (Loan)
A Caps: 2
1st Cap: Switzerland 2010-11
Age at 1st Cap:
21 years 303 days
Under 21 Caps: 14
Under 19 Caps: 6
Under 17 Caps: 5 / 1 goal



DANNY COLLINS

(Stoke City)
International No: 641
Date of Birth: 06 08 80
Born: Chester, England
Eligibility: Welsh Father.
Height: 1.85m

Other Clubs:
Chester City
Vauxhall Motors (Loan),
Sunderland
A Caps: 12
1st Cap: Hungary 2004-05
Age at 1st Cap:
24 years 187 days
Semi-Pro Caps (England C) 6

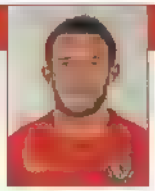


JAMES COLLINS

(Aston Villa)
International No: 637
Date of Birth: 23 08 83
Born: Newport, South East Wales.
Eligibility: Birthplace.
Height: 1.87m

Other Clubs:
Cardiff City,
West Ham United
A Caps: 39 / 2 goals
1st Cap: Norway 2003-04
Age at 1st Cap.
20 years 278 days.
Under 21 Caps: 8
Under 20 Caps: 1
Under 19 Caps: 3 / 3 goals
Under 18 Caps: 2
Under 17 Caps: 1
Under 16 Caps. 3

WALES SQUAD



NEAL EARDLEY

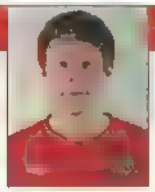
(Blackpool)
International No: 663
Date of Birth: 06.11.88
Born: Llandudno, North Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.80m

Other Clubs: Oldham Athletic
A Caps: 16
1st Cap: Bulgaria 2007-08
Age at 1st Cap:
19 years 289 days
Under 21 Caps: 7
Under 19 Caps: 1

DANNY GABBIDON

(Queens Park Rangers)
International No: 628
Date of Birth: 08.08.79
Born: Cwmbran
South East Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.77m

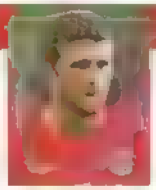
Other Clubs: WBA,
Cardiff City (Loan),
Cardiff City, West Ham United
A Caps: 44
1st Cap:
Czech Republic 2001-02
Age at 1st Cap:
22 years 231 days
Under 21 Caps: 17
Under 18 Caps: 3



CHRIS GUNTER

(Nottingham Forest)
International No: 659.
Date of Birth: 21.07.89
Born: Newport
South East Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.80m

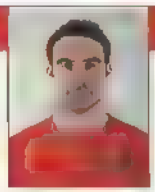
Other Clubs: Cardiff
City, Tottenham Hotspur,
Nottingham Forest (Loan)
A Caps: 29
1st Cap: New Zealand 2006-07
Age at 1st Cap:
17 years 309 days
Under 21 Caps: 8
Under 19 Caps: 3
Under 17 Caps: 11 / 2 goals



ADAM MATTHEWS

(Celtic)
International No: 684
Date of Birth: 13.01.92
Born: Swansea, South Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.78m

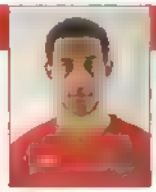
Other Clubs: Cardiff City
A Caps: 2
1st Cap: Scotland 2010-11
Age at 1st Cap:
19 years 132 days
Under 21 Caps: 3
Under 19 Caps: 5 / 1 goal
Under 17 Caps: 9



CRAIG MORGAN

(Preston North End)
International No: 655.
Date of Birth: 18.06.85
Born: St.Asaph, North Wales.
Eligibility: Birthplace.
Height: 1.88m

Other Clubs: Wrexham,
MK Dons, Wrexham (Loan),
Peterborough United (Loan),
Peterborough United
A Caps: 23
1st Cap: Cyprus 2006-07
Age at 1st Cap:
21 years 115 days
Under 21 Caps: 12
Under 19 Caps: 3
Under 17 Caps: 6



LEWIN NYATANGA

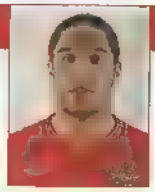
(Bristol City)
International No: 650
Date of Birth: 18.08.88
Born: Burton upon Trent,
England
Eligibility: Welsh Mother
Height: 1.88m

Other Clubs: Derby County,
Sunderland (Loan)
Barnsley (Loan)
A Caps: 34
1st Cap: Paraguay 2005-06.
Age at 1st Cap:
17 years 195 days
Under 21 Caps: 10
Under 17 Caps: 8

NEIL TAYLOR

(Swansea City)
International No: 678
Date of Birth. 07.02.89
Born: St. Asaph, North Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.75m

Other Clubs: Wrexham
A Caps: 3
1st Cap: Croatia 2009-10
Age at 1st Cap:
21 years 105 days
Under 23 (SP) Caps: 1
Under 21 Caps. 13.
Under 19 Caps: 5
Under 17 Caps: 10



ASHLEY WILLIAMS

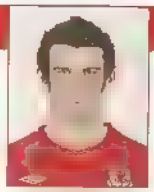
(Swansea City)
International No: 665
Date of Birth: 23.08.84
Born: Tamworth, England.
Eligibility: Welsh Grandfather
Height: 1.83m

Other Clubs:
Hednesford Town,
Stockport County,
Swansea City (Loan)
A Caps: 25 / 1 goal
1st Cap: Luxembourg 2007-08
Age at 1st Cap:
23 years 215 days

JOE ALLEN

(Swansea City)
International No: 673
Date of Birth: 14.03.90
Born: Carmarthen,
West Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace.
Height: 1.68m

Other Clubs: Wrexham (Loan
A Caps: 2
1st Cap: Estonia 2008-09
Age at 1st Cap:
19 years 76 days
Under 21 Caps: 14 / 2 goals
Under 19 Caps: 4
Under 17 Caps: 10 / 1 goal



GARETH BALE

(Tottenham Hotspur)
International No. 653
Date of Birth: 16.07.89
Born: Cardiff, South Wales.
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.83m
Other Clubs: Southampton.

A Caps: 27 / 3 goals
1st Cap:
Trinidad & Tobago 2005-06
Age at 1st Cap:
16 years 315 days
Under 21 Caps: 4
Under 19 Caps: 1.
Under 17 Caps: 7 / 1 goal

JACK COLLISON

(West Ham United)
International No: 668
Date of Birth. 02.10.88.
Born: Watford, England
Eligibility: Welsh Grandfather
Height: 1.83m
A Caps: 8

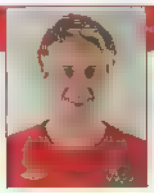
1st Cap: Iceland 2007-08
Age at 1st Cap:
19 years 238 days
Under 21 Caps:
7 - 2 goals

ANDREW CROFTS

(Norwich City)
International No: 647
Date of Birth: 29.05.84
Born: Chatham, England
Eligibility: Welsh Grandfather
Height: 1.75m

Other Clubs: Gillingham,
Peterborough United (Loan)
Wrexham (Loan)
Brighton & HA.
A Caps: 17.
1st Cap: Azerbaijan 2005-06
Age at 1st Cap:
21 years 136 days.
Under 21 Caps: 10 / 1 goal
Under 19 Caps: 8

WALES SQUAD



DAVID EDWARDS

(Wolverhampton Wanderers)
International No: 664.
Date of Birth: 03.02.86.
Born: Shrewsbury, England.
Eligibility: Welsh Father.
Height: 1.80m

Other Clubs: Shrewsbury Town, [illegible] Town
A Caps: [illegible] goals
1st Cap: Republic of Ireland 2007-08.
Age at 1st Cap: [illegible] years 287 days
Under 21 Caps: 9 / 2 goals.
Under 20 Caps: 1.
Under 19 Caps: 4 / 1 goal
Under 17 Caps: 5.

ANDY KING

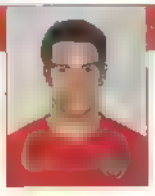
(Leicester City)
International No: 674
Date of Birth: 29.10.88
Born: Maidenhead, England
Eligibility: Welsh Grandfather
Height: 1.83m

Other Clubs: Chelsea
A Caps: 9 / 1 goal
1st Cap: Estonia 2008-09
Age at 1st Cap: 20 years 212 days
Under 21 Caps: 11 / 3 goals
Under 19 Caps: 7

JOE LEDLEY

(Celtic)
International No: 646
Date of Birth: 23.0[illegible].87
Born: Cardiff, South Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace.
Height: 1.83m

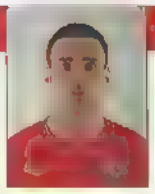
Other Clubs: Cardiff City
A Caps: 37 / 3 goals
1st Cap: Poland 2005-06
Age at 1st Cap: 18 years 227 days
Under 21 Caps: 5.
Under 19 Caps: 3
Under 17 Caps: 6



AARON RAMSEY

(Arsenal)
International No: 671
Date of Birth: 26.12.90
Born: Caerphilly, South Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.78m

Other Clubs: Cardiff City Arsenal, Nottingham Forest (Loan), Cardiff City (Loan)
A Caps: 14 / 3 goals.
1st Cap: Denmark 2008-09
Age at 1st Cap: 17 years 328 days
Under 21 Caps: 12 / 2 goals
Under 17 Caps: 15 / 2 goals



CARL ROBSON-KANU

(Reading)
International No: 679.
Date of Birth: 21.0[illegible].89
Born: Hammersmith, England
Eligibility: Welsh Grandmother
Height: 1.83m

Other Clubs: Southend United (Loan), Swindon Town (Loan).
A Caps: 3.
1st Cap: Croatia 2009-10.
Age at 1st Cap: 21years 2 days.
Under 21 Caps: 4 / 2 goals

DAVID VAUGHAN

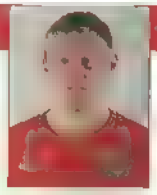
(Sunderland)
International No: 632.
Date of Birth: 18.[illegible].83
Born: Abergele, North Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1.70m

Other Clubs: Crewe Alexandra Real Sociedad (Spain) Blackpool
A Caps: 25 / 1 goal
1st Cap: USA 2002-03
Age at 1st Cap: 20 years 97 days
Under 21 Caps: 8 / 3 goals
Under 20 Caps: 1
Under 19 Caps: 2 / 1 goal

CRAIG BELLAMY

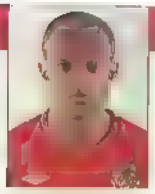
(Manchester City)
International No: 614
Date of Birth: 13 07 79
Born: Cardiff, South Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1 75m
Other Clubs: Norwich City, Coventry City, Newcastle United Celtic (Loan), Blackburn Rovers Liverpool, West Ham United Manchester City, Cardiff City (Loan,
A Caps: 62 / 18 goals
1st Cap: Jamaica, 1997-98
Age at 1st Cap: 18 years 325 days.
Under 21 Caps: 8 / 1 goal
Under 18 Caps: 9 / 6 goals
Under 16 Caps: 2

SIMON CHURCH



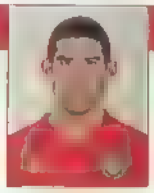
(Reading)
International No: 672
Date of Birth: 12 12 88
Born: High Wycombe, England
Eligibility: Welsh Grandfather
Height: 1 83m
Other Clubs: Crewe Alexandra (Loan), Yeovil Town (Loan Wycombe Wanderers (Loan) Leyton Orient (Loan)
A Caps: 12 / 1 goal
1st Cap: Estonia 2008-09
Age at 1st Cap: 20 years 168 days.
Under 21 Caps: 15 / 8 goals

ROBERT EARNSHAW



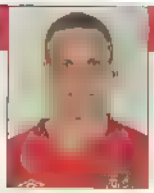
(Cardiff City)
International No: 630
Date of Birth: 06 04 81
Born: Mufulira, Zambia
Eligibility: Welsh resident, British Passport
Height: 1.73m
Other Clubs: Cardiff City, Greenock Morton (Loan) WBA, Norwich City, Derby County Nottingham Forest
A Caps: 54 / 16 goals
1st Cap: Germany 2002-03
Age at 1st Cap: 21 years 38 days
Under 21 Caps: 10 / 1 goal
Under 18 Caps: 12 / 6 goals

CHRIS EVANS



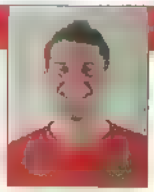
(Sheffield United)
International No: 669
Date of Birth: 28 12 88
Born: Rhyl, North East Wales
Eligibility: Birthplace
Height: 1 83m
Other Clubs: Chester City, Norwich City (Loan), Manchester City
A Caps: 13 / 2 goals
1st Cap: Iceland 2007-08
Age at 1st Cap: 19 years 151 days
Under 21 Caps: 13 / 13 goals
Under 19 Caps: 4 / 1 goa

STEVE MORISON



(Norwich City)
International No: 681
Date of Birth: 29 08 83
Born: Enfield, England
Eligibility: Welsh Grandmother
Height: 1 88m
Other Clubs: Northampton Town Bishop's Stortford Stevenage Borough, Milwa...
A Caps: 7
1st Cap: Luxembourg 2010-11
Age at 1st Cap: 26 years 347 days
Semi-Pro XI (England C): 8 / 3 goals

SAM VOKES



(Wolverhampton Wanderers)
International No: 670
Date of Birth: 21 10 89
Born: Southampton, England
Eligibility: Welsh Grandfather
Height: 1 86m
Other Clubs: AFC Bournemouth, Leeds United (Loan), Bristol City (Loan), Sheffield United (Loan) Norwich City (Loan)
A Caps: 18 / 2 goals
1st Cap: Iceland 2007-08
Age at 1st Cap. 18 years 219 days
Under 21 Caps: 14 / 4 goals

TONIGHT

Wales

MANAGER **GARY SPEED**

- WAYNE **HENNESSEY** *Wolverhampton Wanderers*
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- LEWIS **PRICE** *Crystal Palace*
- DARCY **BLAKE** *Cardiff City*
- DANNY **COLLINS** *Stoke City*
- JAMES **COLLINS** *Aston Villa*
- NEAL **EARDLEY** *BlackPool*
- DANNY **GABBIDON** *Queens Park Rangers*
- CHRIS **GUNTER** *Nottingham Forest*
- ADAM **MATTHEWS** *Celtic*
- CRAIG **MORGAN** *Preston North End*
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- NEIL **TAYLOR** *Swansea City*
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- GARETH **BALE** *Tottenham Hotspur*
- JACK **COLLISON** *West Ham United*
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- ANDY **KING** *Leicester City*
- JOE **LEDLEY** *Celtic*
- AARON **RAMSEY** *Arsenal*
- HAL ROBSON-**KANU** *Reading*
- DAVID **VAUGHAN** *Sunderland*
- CRAIG **BELLAMY** *Manchester City*
- ROBERT **EARNSHAW** *Cardiff City*
- CHED **EVANS** *Sheffield United*
- STEVE **MORISON** *Norwich City*
- SAM **VOKES** *Wolverhampton Wanderers*

[illegible]
Assistant Referees
JANNES REINVALL [illegible]
MEEME NEEMLAID (Estonia)
[illegible] REVIN MORGAN [illegible]
[illegible]

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(Reading)	ADAM FEDERICI
(Unattached)	LUCAS NEILL
(FC Utrecht)	MICHAEL ZULLO
(Middlesbrough)	RHYS WILLIAMS
(FC Dinamo Moscow)	LUKE WILKSHIRE
(Perth Glory)	MATTHEW SPIRANOVIC
(Gyeongnam FC)	LUKE DEVERE
(Blackburn Rovers)	BRETT EMERTON
(Everton)	TIM CAHILL
(Kayserispor Kulubu)	JAMES TROISI
(AZ Alkmaar)	BRETT HOLMAN
(Crystal Palace)	MILE JEDINAK
(US Sassuolo Calcio)	CARL VALERI
(Brisbane Roar)	MATTHEW MCKAY
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BREAKING NEW GROUND

Tonight's fixture breaks new ground as the two nations have never met before in an official senior men's international.

For Australia it represents their last chance to hone preparations ahead of the next phase of their 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign. The recent draw in Rio saw the Socceroos grouped with Saudi Arabia, Oman and Thailand in Group B of the third round of Asian qualifiers.

Head coach Holger Osieck is approaching the first anniversary of his appointment and is looking forward to testing his side against Gary Speed's men. He said: "Our matches in Australia against New Zealand and Serbia were very important in regard to team building and expanding our squad and I have some very good impressions of the players from those matches.

"The match against Wales will be our final opportunity to prepare before we begin our FIFA World Cup qualification campaign. The majority of players will be at the end of their pre-season or at the start of their respective league season so it will be very important for me to see at what stage they are at when we play in Cardiff."

German national Osieck, who turns 63 at the end of the month, succeeded Pim Verbeek after last summer's World Cup finals.

He has had a long career in coaching which started at Vancouver Whitecaps, the club at which he finished his playing career in 1977. His first foray into international coaching came in 1987 when he was appointed as assistant manager to Frank Beckenbauer with the Germany team that would go on to win the 1990 World Cup.

Since then he has enjoyed a nomadic career, managing Bochum (Germany), Fenerbahce and Kocaelispor (Turkey) and Urawa Red Diamonds (Japan) as well as a spell in charge of the Canadian national team.

Osieck's first games in charge of Australia came with back-to-back friendlies away to Switzerland and Poland last September. His debut produced a goalless draw against the Swiss but he tasted his first victory four days later when goals from Brett Holman and Luke Wilkshere gave the Aussies a 2-1 win over the Poles.

The year came to an end with mixed results. A 1-0 win over Paraguay in Sydney was followed by a 3-0 defeat to Egypt in Cairo, a result which was a blow to the Socceroos' preparations for the 2011 Asian Cup.

Their final warm-up for that competition produced a stalemate against the United Arab Emirates five days before the tournament in Qatar started.

Two goals from Tim Cahill and single strikes from Brett Emerton and Holman gave Australia a 4-0 win over India in their opening group game, and after a 1-1 draw with South Korea a first-half effort from Mile Jedinak proved enough for the Socceroos to edge out Bahrain and qualify for the quarter finals.

That last eight tie was also a close fought affair with Iraq taking Osieck's side to within two minutes of a penalty shoot-out before a Harry Kewell header helped Australia edge through.

The semi-final against Uzbekistan proved far easier with Australia

winning 6-0 to reach the showpiece final against Japan.

The Japanese had ended Australia's interest in their maiden Asian Cup campaign in 2007 when they defeated them on penalties in the quarter finals. This time it took a goal from Tadanari Lee in the second period of extra-time to deny the Socceroos and settle the destiny of the trophy.

The next outing for Osieck's men was a friendly against Germany in Monchengladbach in March. The game saw Australia gain some sort of revenge – Germany had finished convincing 4-0 winners in the two teams' opening clash of the 2010 FIFA World Cup - with a 2-1 victory.

Most recently, the Australians have played two further friendlies on home soil. A brace from Josh Kennedy and a James Troisi penalty secured a 3-0 win over New Zealand in Adelaide before Serbia held them to a goalless draw in Melbourne.

Osieck's squad for those games was mainly drawn from European-based players, although four played their club football in Japan and one in South Korea. Another quartet were home-based, including midfielder Matt McKay who captained Brisbane Roar to the domestic Hyundai A-League regular season and grand final double.

There are likely to be several familiar faces to followers of the British game involved tonight. Among them could be record cap holder Mark Schwarzer, with the Fulham goalkeeper in line to make his 90th appearance should he figure.

Another well-known figure closing in on a national record is Everton's Tim Cahill. The prolific midfielder is well known for his eye for goal at club level and has also transferred that part of his game onto the international stage. He has scored 23 goals in 52 appearances for his country and is now just six away from levelling with record marksman Damian Mori.

By William Hughes

"...our final opportunity to prepare before we begin our FIFA World Cup qualification campaign"

BACK IN THE MIX

As comebacks go, the chances of Danny Collins' return to the Wales international scene was some way from the top of the list

The 30 year-old had not been involved with his country since August 2007, when he made a brief appearance as substitute against Bulgaria in Bourgas during a 1-0 win Since then Collins had missed out on a potential 30 caps

The reason for the Stoke City defender's inactivity has been pretty well chronicled over the last few years, and it is not something Collins particularly wants to talk much about now. Suffice to say, Collins and former boss John Toshack did not see eye-to-eye over a few matters, and that left the Buckley-born player very much frozen out.

But one of the first things caretaker-boss Brian Flynn did, when he took the reigns for two UEFA qualifiers in October last year, was to build some bridges with Collins and persuade him to return to the fold

It is a decision that new boss Gary Speed clearly approves of because Collins has been an ever-present in his squad for his four matches in control. He has now seen his caps tally rise to 12, five coming in the past few months

Whatever the reasons for the fall-out between Toshack and Collins, the end result was that Wales were denied a consistent, talented Premier League defender

He said: "I suppose I have missed a chunk of my international career, not to be selected for four years is a long time. It was disappointing to be sitting at home watching the team on TV when I could have been contributing. Now I just hope to be involved more and to be able to show what I can do."

Collins' versatility is also much appreciated by Speed. Throughout his career, with Sunderland and Stoke, Collins has switched between centre-back and left-back. At Stoke he has mainly operated at full-back, and re-started his Wales career in that role But he played in the heart of defence in the 2-0 victory over Northern Ireland in Dublin last May

Collins is happy to play in either position, and says: "As far as my best position is concerned, I would prefer centre-back if given the choice. I have played mainly left-back for Wales and certainly since I got recalled to the squad. But as in my club career, if I am asked to play left back, than I will take it."

Collins' new Wales future came thanks to Flynn. Collins said: "When there was a change of manager and Brian Flynn stepped in, he came up to Stoke's training ground for a chat with me and asked if I would be happy to be considered again, and I was only too pleased to say yes

"I played in both of Brian's sides

INTERVIEW DANNY COLLINS

when he was in charge, and when Gary Speed took over he has also kept me in all the squads. I suppose I was relieved to be back, and just happy to be involved again

"I've only got 12 caps and five of those have been in the past few months. I remember that I made my debut against Hungary back in 2005 and Sam Ricketts also played his first international in the same match. He has got 42 caps now to his name. I suppose I feel that could have been me with a bit of luck."

Collins has gone from newcomer to old hand, but missed the bit in the middle! He said: "I am now one of the oldest players in the squad. But it's exciting to be involved again, particularly when we have so many good young players coming through.

"There are plenty of young lads, and the likes of Bale and Ramsey have every chance of going on to be world-class players."

"Now I hope to be involved more, to be able to show what I can do"

Danny's return to the international arena coincided with his club side reaching their first FA Cup Final last season against Manchester City.

He was on the substitutes' bench at Wembley, and was obviously disappointed to end up with a runners-up medal after the Potteries side lost 1-0. He said: "It was a great achievement for Stoke to get to the final. We played so well to beat Bolton 5-0 in the semi-final, it was just a shame that we didn't get going in the final."

"We had chances early on and it was all very tight until they grabbed the winner. I would have liked to have got onto the field, but it was still a great experience to be involved at Wembley.

Now we have European football and I really hope that I can be more involved. I lost my first-team place around Christmas time and played in just the couple of games after the final."

He added: "Obviously I want to be playing more first-team football, which will only help me hang on to my place in the Wales side. But at least I am back in the mix now, and really looking forward to playing for my country again and making up for lost time by adding a few more caps to my total."

By Paul Walker

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MATCH REVIEW

WALES 1
SCOTLAND 3

Carling Nations Cup, Aviva Stadium, Dublin. May 25 2011.

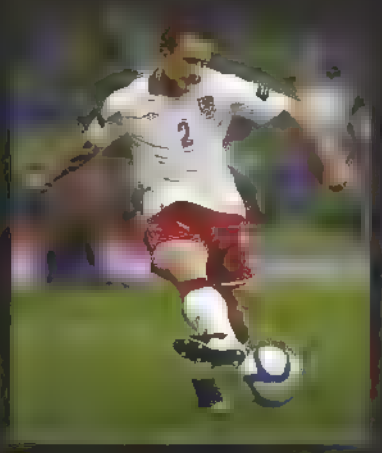
The second game for Wales in the Carling Nations Cup saw Gary Speed forced to pick a largely non-Premiership side as the squad embarked on two games in three days.

The team, captained for the first time by striker Rob Earnshaw, competed well for the first half and took the lead through a fine goal from the skipper after 35 minutes.

It was certainly no more than the team deserved and that was how it stayed until half time. Sam Vokes (Wolves) was a good leader of the Welsh attack, whilst Craig Morgan (Peterborough) and Darcy Blake (Cardiff City) linked well together in the defence.

In the second 45 minutes, the Scots came back at Wales strongly and scored three times in 15 minutes between the 55th and 70th minutes to take the game. A further chance fell to Rob Earnshaw, but he fired over the bar. There was a first cap for Adam Matthews (Celtic) and starts for Owain Tudur Jones (Norwich City), Andy Dorman and Jermaine Easter (both Crystal Palace).

Wales: Boaz Myhill, Neal Eardley (Sub.Adam Matthews 61m), Craig Morgan, Darcy Blake, Neil Taylor (Sub.Chris Gunter 46m), Owain Tudur Jones (Sub.David Vaughan 72m), Andy Dorman (Sub.David Cotterill 60m), Andy King (Sub. Aaron Ramsey 61m), Sam Vokes (Sub.Steve Morison 72m), Robert Earnshaw, Jermaine Easter. Subs Not Used: Wayne Hennessey, Dane Collins, Danny Gabbidon, Jack Collison, Craig Bellamy.



Top: Jermaine Easter finds his path blocked by Steven Whittaker.
Above: Neal Eardley picks out a pass.

DAMIAN RODEN

To Sydney and Back!

Dam an Roden is the new Head of Performance for Wales and was Gary Speed's first appointment. The proud Welshman is as passionate and optimistic about the future of the national team as anyone and having establ shed himself as one of the best injury prevention and fitness specialists n the Premier League, Damian has been on q te a journey

Twelve months ago Damian was headhunted by the Australian Football Federation to become their Head of Performance and help develop a very well establ shed national team structure Whilst it was a very difficult decision, Dam an decided that a lifestyle change and res dence on Manley Beach, Sydney, was the best dec sion for his young family than to continue in his ro.e as Head of Sports Science at Manchester City

A year to the day however, an almost fatal deep vein thrombosis (DVT) suffered during his first training camp with the Socceroos ended any hopes of appearing on 'Neighbours' or Home and Away .

I was looking for a new challenge and working with like minded people again and the players, staff and officials of the Socceroos provided that in abundance. It is obvious why they have established themselves as a country competing in major tournaments on a regular basis, they are phenomenal people

"On behalf of myself and my family I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ben Buckley, John Boultbee, Han Berger, Aurelio Vidmar, Mark Jones and Simon Roberts for the World Cup experience and for helping me through a frightening and uncertain time "

After a six-month recovery period, Damian was delighted to join up with Gary Speed again and carry-out the same role a little closer to home, and sees a lot of qual t es in the emerging Welsh players to that of the Australians

"the players are extremely professional"

"There is a hunger, a desire, and an ethic to achieve success with Wales, the players are extremely professional in everything they do during each training camp, and wh st the results have not yet been what we would have wanted there are extremely positive signs and everyone within the camp knows what direction we are moving n

The Approach

The new age approach taken with the national team is based on Damian's sound scientific foundation largely influenced by the experienced Dutch football expert and assistant manager Raymond Verheijen.

Players perform "readiness" tests, pre-training prevention exercises, structured tactical sessions and relaxing recovery sessions on a daily basis where the ultimate aim is to safeguard the players against fatigue and injury in an attempt to optimize performance each game.

Pedigree

Like many young boys Damian grew up with aspirations to become a professional footballer. After playing for his home-town club, Wrexham FC and a spell in the USISL league in America, Damian's focus changed to education. He completed a Bachelors Degree in Sports Science, a Masters Degree in Exercise & Nutrition Science and the UEFA Professional Coaching Diploma.

On completion of the Masters Degree and Professional Coaching Diploma Damian was recruited to the reputable sports science department at Bolton Wanderers FC by the very well respected Sam Allardyce where he began to introduce his philosophy "every player, fit for selection for every game".

Bolton, a fairly small town on the outskirts of Manchester, achieved relative greatness. In four years with an ageing squad of players, they were the only team outside the "Big Four" teams to finish in the top eight of the Premier League every season, qualifying for European competition twice.

Damian was then recruited as Head of Sports Science for both Blackburn Rovers FC and Manchester City FC by one of the most forward thinking coaches of modern day – Mark Hughes, who, similar to Allardyce at Bolton, steered Rovers into European competition following the same methods.

Similarly, in two seasons Manchester City boasted the best injury record and highest physical output of all Premier League teams.

The injury prevention philosophy and gradual build-up of fitness levels implemented successfully at club level that is being filtered into each Welsh training camp is soon to be introduced at each level with both the men's and women's squads.

The future in Wales is bright.

CLASS OF 1981

In 1981 we came agonisingly close to qualifying for the World Cup, a year that saw the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Signing in:
Bryan Robson joins Ron Atkinson at Manchester United

IT WAS the year more than 600,000 people flooded the streets to London to catch a glimpse of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on their wedding day and British Telecom announced the end of the telegram after 136 years.

Adam and the Ants were taking the charts by storm with 'Stand and Deliver' and 'Prince Charming' while the nation was introduced to Del Boy and Rodney on September 8 when the first episode of Only Fools and Horses was shown on BBC1. Bucks Fizz won the Eurovision Song Contest with 'Making Your Mind Up' and in the film world Chariots of Fire - the story of British athletes Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell at the 1924 Olympics - was receiving rave reviews.

West Brom midfielder Bryan Robson became Britain's most expensive footballer when he moved to Manchester United in a £1.5 million deal and Liverpool became the first British side to win the European Cup three times.

Bob Champion, who had recently beaten cancer, claimed a fairytale Grand National win on 10-1 shot Aldaniti, while Steve Davis secured the first of his six world snooker titles with an 18-12 win over Welshman Doug Mountjoy in the final.

Wales, with ex-Tottenham and Cardiff defender Mike England at the helm, were on course to qualify for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain after an impressive start to their Group Three campaign - but it all ended in heartache in Bratislava.

England's men followed up victories over Iceland and Czechoslovakia the previous year with a 1-0 win over Turkey in Ankara, Leeds winger Carl Harris scoring his only international goal. Wales were then held to a 0-0 draw by group favourites USSR at the

Waves of joy: Charles and Diana at Buckingham Palace, while Bob Champions wins the Grand National on Aldaniti (right). On the opposite page, Wales sing the national anthem before the World Cup qualifier against the USSR.

Racecourse. But the Welsh challenge crumbled after that stalemate with a 2-0 defeat in Czechoslovakia triggering the decline. Goalkeeper Dai Davies gifted the Czechs the lead with an own goal before substitute Wernar Licka sealed the points.

There was more woe against Iceland at the Vetch, a game Wales were expected to win easily. Robbie James, one of six Swansea players in the side, fired the Dragons ahead in the 24th minute but then came the first of two partial floodlight failures. Finnish referee Arto Ravander allowed the match to continue at first but took the players off when the second failure occurred just before half-time. The 43-minute delay destroyed Wales rhythm. Asgeir Sigurvinsson equalised seconds after the interval, although Alan Curtis restored the lead in the 54th minute. Just as the lights started to dim again Bayern Munich midfielder Sigurvinson netted his second in the 61st minute to secure a shock point for the minnows.

Wales now flew to Tbilisi via Latvia and Moscow – to face group leaders USSR knowing a win would book their flight to Spain although a draw would be good enough as long as Czechoslovakia failed to beat the Soviets in their last game

But the hosts, with Dynamo Kiev striker and 1975 European Footballer of the Year Oleg Blokhin calling the tune, stormed into a 2-0 lead in the opening 18 minutes through Vitaly Daraselia and Blokhin before Yuvi Gavrilov sealed qualification for the USSR in the 64th minute

Wales would still pinch the second qualifying spot if the Soviets won in Bratislava 11 days later but a 1-1 draw sent the Czechs through on goal difference. If only they had beaten Iceland at the Vetch

By Mario Risoli

"The nation was introduced to Del Boy and Rodney when the first episode of Only Fools and Horses was shown..."

Q&A SAM VOKES

Alan Shearer

Southampton

My Dad, Tim.

Drake.

Italian.

Dubai

BMW X5

Playstation 3.

Idol: Alan Shearer

"Stick at it and always work hard"

Emmanuel Adebayor's Manchester City shirt.

What is your favourite film?

The comedy 'Anchor Man' starring Will Ferrell.

Favourite actor?

Will Ferrell.

[illegible] just stick to a normal routine.

[illegible] for Wales, against Azerbaijan [illegible] Millennium Stadium in 2008.

[illegible] Russia in 2008 when we lost 1-1 at the Lokomotiv Stadium – what an atmosphere!

Burj Al Arab in Dubai.

Nemanja Vidic

15. Who is your best mate in football?

Wolves and Wales colleague, David Edwards.

Manchester United's Nemanja Vidic.

The Feijenoord Stadium in Rotterdam.

18. Do you play any other sports?

I do play golf.

when you finish playing?

Not at the moment!

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Football Supporters Federation in Wales

The Wales Supporters team

We would like to extend a warm welcome to any Australian supporters who have made the trip to Cardiff tonight. The Welsh fans will be looking forward to a good performance from the team in preparation for our final games in the Euro 2012 qualifying tournament.

The Football Federat on in Wales has been busy preparing for the next away fixture which will take place in London n early September and then our final away trip to Sofia in Bulgaria on the 11th of October We will be providing a fans' embassy in Sofia and we have made good links with the Br t sh consulate there, we will also be producing our usual information booklets for that game. For the England game we will be available and our helpline number will be sent out to all fans who receive match tickets. However, we decided against producing information booklets.

We are st il vigorously campaigning against a Team GB Olympic football team, we believe that it could have a detrimental effect on the four home nat ons, we have surveyed our membership of over 500,000 supporters in England and Wales and 57% of the members who took part voted against a Team GB football team

The World Cup draw for 2014 saw Wales in Pot 6 following an appeal from the Faroe slands, this has made our task to qualify for Brazil even tougher However, we have 12 players in the Premier league, plus Joe Ledley and Adam Mathews up at Celtic. We just need all our players fit and available and I am sure we will start moving back up the rankings

GÔL

On the charity front Gôl, the Wales Supporters Charity, has again been very active since our last home game against England. Plans have been progressing for four Montenegrin orphans, Vasilija (13), Valentina (15), Bojan (13) and Danilko (13), to visit Wales to lead out their heroes as mascots at the Wales v Montenegro game in September

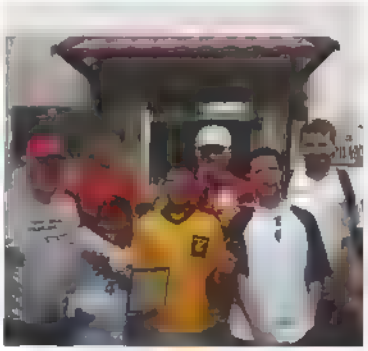
While in Dublin in May, Gôl supported the Jack and Jill charity who provide funding to families of brain-injured children up to the age of four, making a donation of £1000, as well as providing match tickets to see Wales play, courtesy of the FAW However, it was not all good news as 13-year-old John Ross Carrick and his family, of Glasgow, were unable to see the Wales v Scotland game due to the volcanic ash, as his flight from Prestwick, courtesy of Gôl, was sadly cancelled

Meanwhile, the Wales Supporters team had bitterly disappointing defeats in the last two games, which could and should have turned out to be wins. England were first up at Grange Albion and despite goals from Huw Roffe and Liam Davies, Wales suffered a 3-2 defeat in a game watched by the chairman of the English FA, David Bernstein. A positive note was the first game of Wales 'B' against England 'B', with Wales winning 5-2 at the Cardiff International Arena, inspirational captain Rhys Lewis scoring twice, along with Andrew Dowling, Simon Thomas and an own goal. The two games, plus the previous night's activities featuring the band 'Jukebox' playing live at the Duke of Clarence helped raise £273 for Gôl

Fast-forward to Dublin and Wales suffered a 4-3 defeat against Scotland, Will Johnson, Dero Jones and Owen Williams scoring as Wales finished in third place in the Carling Fans Cup. The game against Northern Ireland had to be sadly cancelled on police advice

Finally, let us take a moment to remember Wales fan Eryl Lewis, from Cardigan but originally from Trawsfynydd, who sadly passed away before the England game after a short illness. A regular home and away, Eryl loved following Wales and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He was also a big supporter of Gôl and over £1,000 has been raised in his memory a fitting tribute to a great Wales supporter. Eryl will not be forgotten, though, as he has three sons, Alan, Martin and Darren, to carry on his legacy of seeing Wales qual fy one day

By Paul Corkrey and Neil Dymock


Eryl Lewis (far left), pictured during a visit to Azerbaijan

HERE COME THE GIRLS!

If you have some time next week, why not support the Wales Girls' Under 16 team as they play two friendly internationals against Finland? The matches will be played at:

Wednesday 17th August 2011 at Bryntirion FC (Near Bridgend). Kick Off at 7pm, and Friday 19th August 2011 at Garden Village FC (Near Swansea). Kick Off at 7pm.

The matches promise to be well-contested and will be ideal early season preparation for both sides. Last season, the Wales Under 17 Girls played Belgium at the two venues.

These are exciting times for the Women's game in Wales, as in August 2013, Wales will host the UEFA Under 19 Women's Finals. Matches are scheduled to be played in Llanelli, Carmarthen, Bridgend and Swansea.

So, come and see what the women's teams have to offer!

Wales Under 16s Girls
(Pic: www.jamesprickett.co.uk)

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NORTHERN IRELAND 0

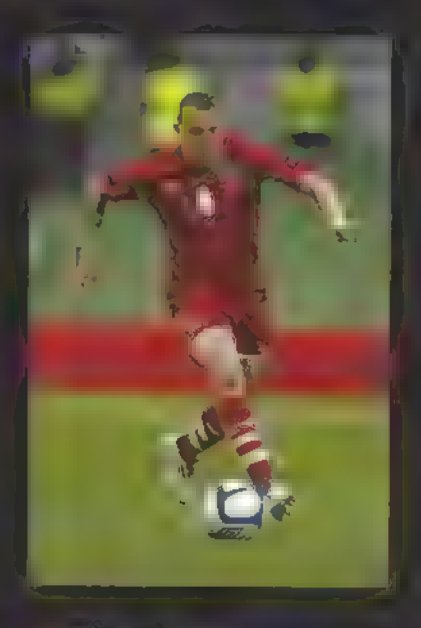
Carling Nations Cup, Aviva Stadium, Dublin (May 27 2011)

The final game for Wales in the Carling Nations Cup saw a 2-0 victory over a scratch Northern Ireland side in a sparsely-populated Aviva Stadium in Dublin.

The Wales team, almost completely changed from the game with Scotland, had to work hard to find inroads into a resolute Irish defence. Up front, the Irish offered little or no threat against a Welsh team that was head and shoulders above them in terms of experience. On 36 minutes, captain Aaron Ramsey scored the opening goal after a weak punch-out from the Irish keeper. There was a welcome return from injury for West Ham's Jack Collison and a reintroduction to international football for Danny Gabbidon.

Wales continued to dominate during the second half and it was no surprise when a second goal came, this time from substitute Robert Earnshaw on 69 minutes when he caught one of the Irish players in possession on the edge of the penalty area. The game was over as a contest and Wales had plenty of play, but without threatening to score further. The win gave Wales manager Gary Speed his first victory in the post and condemned the Irish to the wooden spoon in the competition that was clinched two days later by the hosts with a win over Scotland.

Wayne Hennessey (Sub. Lewis Price 74m), Chris Gunter (Sub.Adam Matthews 72m), Neil Taylor, Jack Collison (Sub. Owain Tudur Jones 62m), Danny Collins, Danny Gabbidon, David Cotterill, Craig Bellamy (Sub. Robert Earnshaw 62m), Steve Morison (Sub.Sam Vokes 80m), Aaron Ramsey (Sub.Andy Dorman 89m), David Vaughan. Subs not used: Craig Morgan, Andy King, Jermaine Easter, Neal Eardley, Boaz Myhill.



Wales skipper Aaron Ramsey opens the scoring. Craig Bellamy

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- **Admiral Swansea Bay 10k**
  25 September 2011
- **Cardiff 10k and Fun Run**
  11 September 2011
- **The Virgin London Marathon**
  22 April 2012
- **Lloyds TSB Cardiff Half Marathon**
  16 October 2011

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BUDDIR GAN Y LOTERI

Seeing Double

For many football fans the first thing to do when arriving at any ground is to go and buy a programme. At home it is seemingly the simplest of tasks but abroad it can present a whole host of differing problems.

For many years match programmes were seen as the domain of the British with few overseas countries bothering to issue; even those that did often restricted them to just VIPs and officials.

That was invariably the case for Wales's early overseas trips but those hardy followers who ventured to Vienna in May 1954 found not only one but two issues actually on sale to the general public.

First up was the standard Austrian FA offering entitled 'Fussball Blatt', which means 'Football Newspaper' with a 32 page special edition marking the first meeting between the countries.

The distinctive red and black front cover has a picture of legendary Welsh striker Trevor Ford in action for Sunderland whilst inside there is a welcome from Sir Geoffrey Waturger the British High Commissioner to Austria. The extensive contents also included detailed pen-pictures of both sides as well as a review of Austria's previous encounters with England, Scotland and Ireland.

Also priced at 1.50 schillings, the local Vienna Courier newspaper produced their 'Offizielle Mannschaftsaufstellung' to commemorate the game.

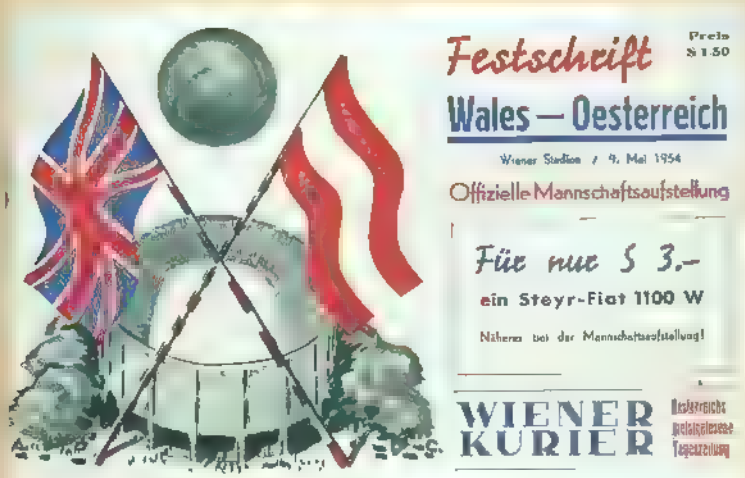
Loosely translated as 'Official line-ups', this is a 16-page landscape format programme printed on glossy paper with the cover depicting a drawing of the Wiener Stadium with the British and Austrian flags draped across it.

It is more commonly referred to as a 'Stadium Issue', the local club or authorities often publishing their own programme to mark major neutral games played at their ground. Indeed this remained commonplace particularly in German-speaking countries, up until the early 1990s.

Sir Geoffrey's message is repeated verbatim whilst the remaining written content is somewhat overpowered by no fewer than 23 portrait pictures of leading players of the time including four from England!

As for the game that ended in a hard-fought 2-0 victory for the hosts and became known as 'The Battle of Vienna'. The Austrians, who finished third in the World Cup finals that year played a return match in Wrexham in November 1955 which proved so brutal that even the normally mild-mannered John Charles reportedly lost his temper for the one and only time in his distinguished career.

Modern-day collectors are also used to fighting for both programmes, with the Stadium issue proving the more difficult of the two to find in good condition.



By David Roberts

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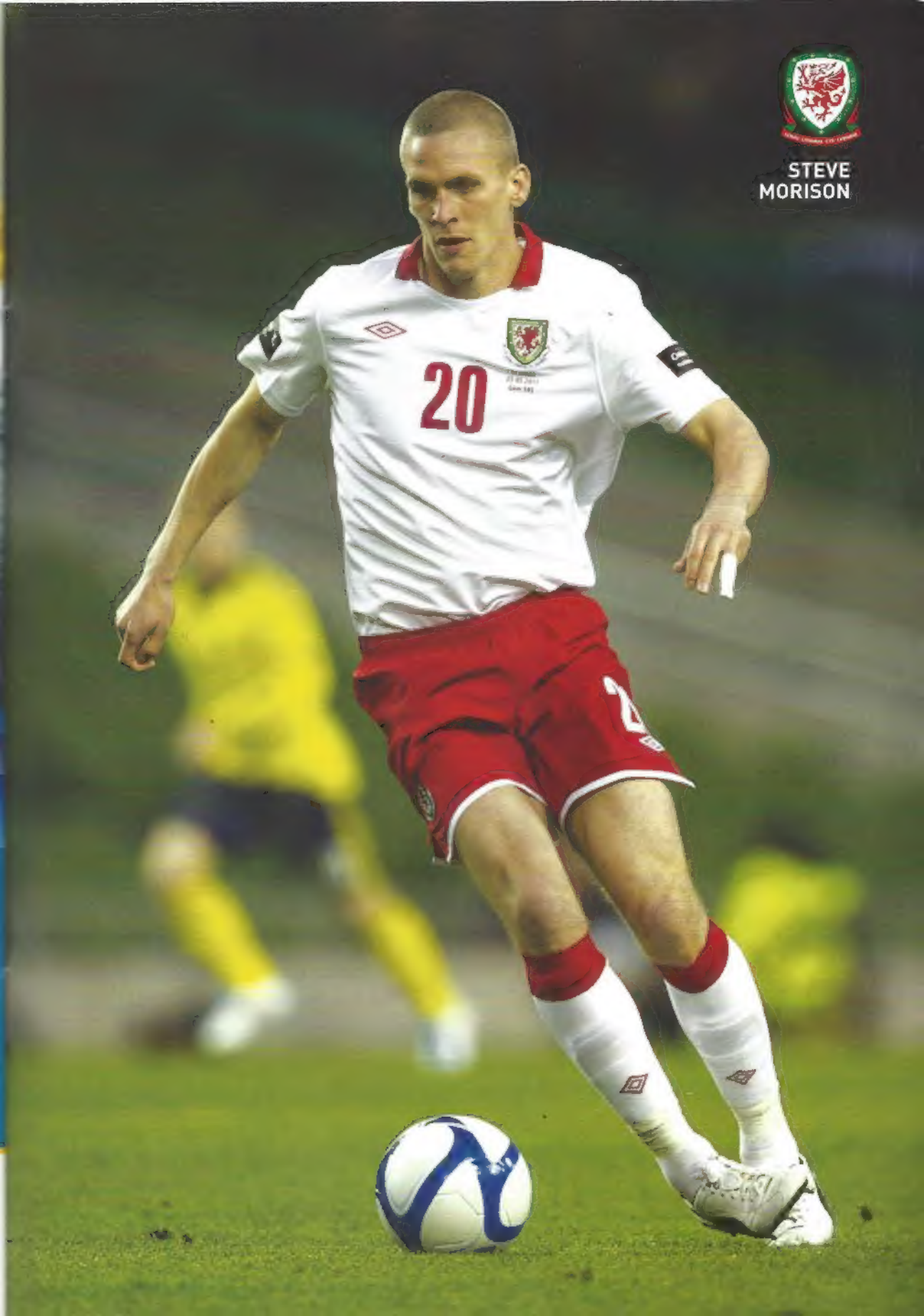
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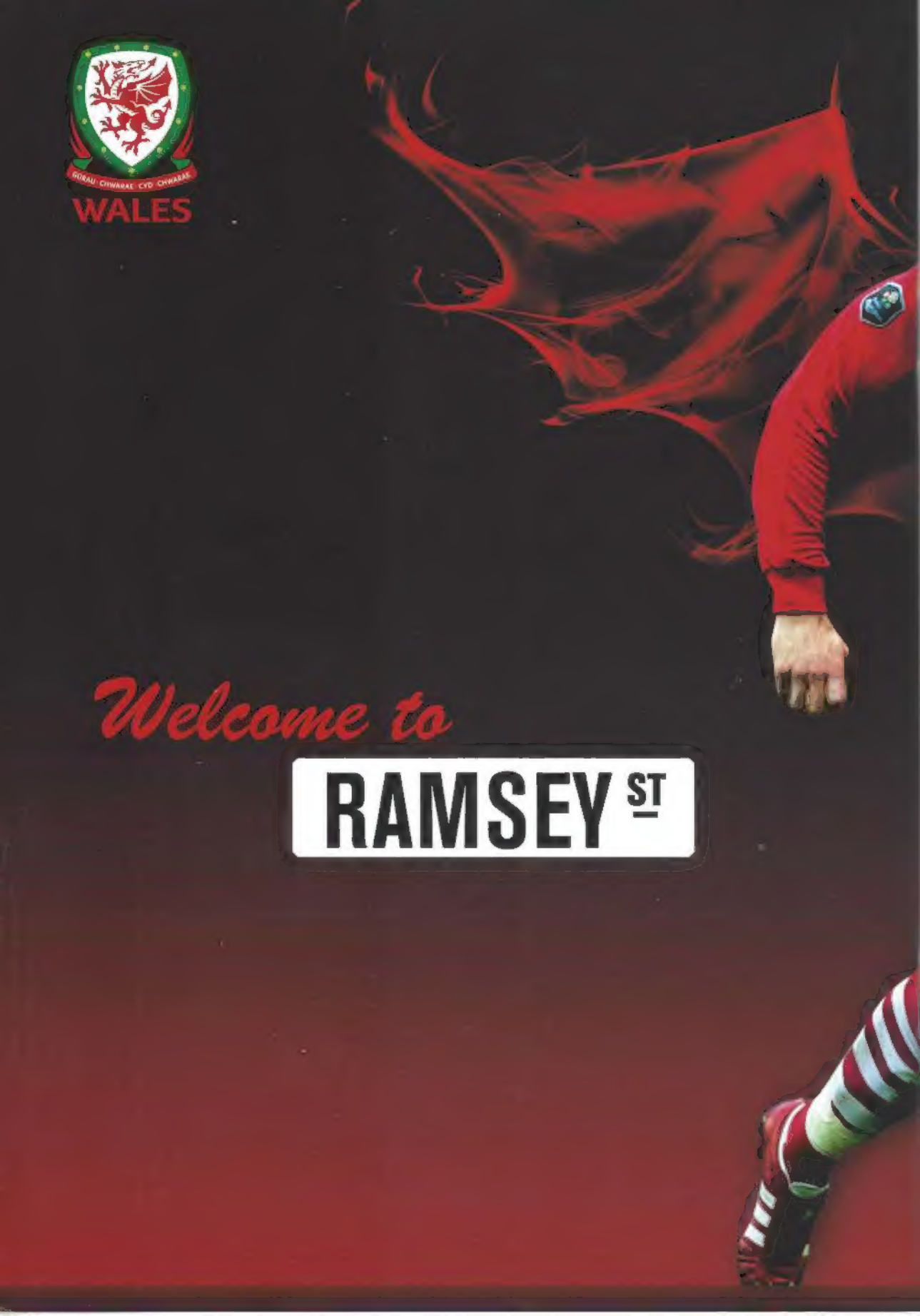
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